1 19A NCAC 02E .0601 is proposed for amendment as follows:

19A NCAC 02E .0601 PERMIT TO REMOVE VEGETATION

- (a) In recognition of the State of North Carolina's desire to assure that high quality and aesthetically pleasing views
 are provided highway users, along with recognizing that, within certain specified limitations, <u>business facilities</u>,
 hereinafter referred to as facilities, defined as office, institutional, commercial, and industrial buildings and certain
 outdoor advertising are legitimate commercial uses of property adjacent to the highways and are an integral part of
- 7 the State's business and marketing economy, <u>selective vegetation removal</u> permits for opening views to <u>facilities</u>
- 8 office, institutional, commercial, and industrial developments and legally erected forms of outdoor advertising,
- 9 which border State highways, are provided by this Section.
- 10 (b) Selective <u>cutting</u>, thinning, pruning, <u>replacement</u>, <u>relocation</u>, or removal of vegetation within highway rights of way may be permitted only for opening views to <u>a facility building office</u>, <u>institutional</u>, <u>commercial and industrial</u>
 12 <u>facilities</u> and legally erected forms of outdoor advertising which are located directly adjacent to State highway rights
 13 of way. <u>For purposes of selective vegetation removal permitting</u>, <u>facilities shall include at least one structural</u>
 14 <u>building</u>. The <u>building must have all required local and State permits</u>, <u>be related to the facility's function</u>, and <u>be</u>
 15 <u>open and operational on a year-round basis</u>. When such <u>cutting</u>, thinning, pruning, <u>replacement</u>, <u>relocation</u>, or
- removal of vegetation is allowed, it shall be performed by the permittee or his agent at no cost to the Department of

17 Transportation and shall comply with this Section.

1920 *History Note:*

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Filed as a Temporary Rule Eff. April 13, 1982 for a Period of 48 Days to Expire on June 1, 1982;

Authority G.S. 136-18(5); G.S. 136-18(7); G.S. 136-18(9);

22 Eff. June 1, 1982; November 1, 2012.

23 *Amended Eff. June 2, 1982.*